

REMARKS

Formal Matters

The present application has been amended to amend the description of Figure 3 and insert an amended Sequence Listing and as requested by the office communication of March 31, 2003.

No new matter is added.

Substantive Issues

In the Office communication, the Examiner first requested further clarification regarding the description of Figure 3. It is believed that the above amendment addresses this issue.

With respect to the sequence listing for SEQ ID NO:21, this issue is addressed by entry of the attached amended Sequence Listing.

With respect to the sequence listing for SEQ ID NO:23, this issue is addressed by entry of the attached amended Sequence Listing.

Finally, with respect to Paragraph 63, please note that following entry of the amendments to this paragraph from both the first and second preliminary amendments previously filed, this paragraph now reads:

[0063] The invention further provides a metal ion affinity peptide, wherein the affinity peptide has the formula $(\text{His-X}_1\text{-X}_2)_n$, (SEQ ID NO:23) wherein each of X_1 and X_2 is an amino acid having an acidic side chain, and $n=3$ to 10. In one embodiment, the affinity peptide comprises the sequence $(\text{His-Asp-Asp})_6$ (SEQ ID NO:02). In another embodiment, the affinity peptide comprises the sequence $(\text{His-Glu-Glu})_6$ (SEQ ID NO:03). In a further embodiment, the affinity peptide comprises the sequence $(\text{His-Asp-Glu})_6$ (SEQ ID NO:04). In a further embodiment, the affinity peptide comprises the sequence $(\text{His-Glu-Asp})_6$ (SEQ ID NO:05).

As such, there is no need to amend this paragraph as requested by the Examiner.

Certification Regarding Sequence Listing

I hereby certify that the enclosed Sequence Listing is being submitted under 37 CFR §§ 1.821(c) and (e) in paper and computer readable form (Compact Disk labeled 'CRF').

As required by 37 CFR 1.821(f), I hereby state that the content of the paper and computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing, submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.821(c) and (e) are the same. The Computer Readable Format (CRF), being submitted under 37 CFR §§ 1.52(e) and 1.824, is formatted on IBM-PC, the operating system compatibility is MS-Windows and the file listing is:

Seqlist.txt 13 KB created April 7, 2003.

I hereby certify that the enclosed submission includes no new matter. The Sequence Listing was prepared with the software FASTSEQ, and conforms to the Patent Office guidelines. Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application is in adherence to 37 CFR §§ 1.821-1.825.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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